

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

January 13, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

MAP Testing Begins	January 8
Robert Crown Field Trip	May 14
Transition Picnic	May 16
Pool Outing	June 4 (tentative)
Completion Ceremony	June 5
Last Day of School (Calendar Change)	June 6

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com 5th graders are learning about petroglyphs. Petroglyphs are ancient symbols carved into rocks all over the world. We are looking at these symbols that represent a culture's beliefs and creating a clay slab box that we will carve symbols into that represent us.

Music - In the new year we will be starting a composition project which will take several weeks. This week, before we start the project, we will be reviewing our reading skills. Students may have a take home assignment to review the skills if they need the extra practice. I am still in need of some pictures of the 5th grade showcase. If anyone has pictures please email me at akaria@op97.org.

Chorus - Congratulations to all chorus members on a wonderful performance at the Oak Park Arms! We were featured in the Oak Leaves. [Click here to see the pictures](#). Our next performances will be in January. We will have an assembly with band and orchestra for students during the day on January 22nd and a performance with **Gold Belt Recorder Ensemble** at night (location/ dates TBD). Stay tuned for more information.

Spanish - ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! Students will be beginning a new story this week and changing groups as well. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - Greetings! Over the next few weeks during library class, in anticipation of iPad mini roll-out, we will be talking about digital citizenship. Digital citizenship encompasses many things, including treating one another with kindness and respect online, as well as cultivating the ability to assess websites and online tools for use. Feel free to discuss with your students the qualities of being a good

digital citizen. READING OLYMPICS: Permission forms were due this past Friday, but if you have not turned them in yet, don't fret! Please turn them in as soon as possible, or feel free to email me. The spring competition at Holmes is Wednesday, March 12th and the district competition is Monday, March 17th. The library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> . As always, feel free to email me with questions mmaneck@op97.org .

Physical Education - (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

Last week we began to revisit the Common Core Standards that we focused upon earlier in the school year. The first skill we are reviewing and focusing upon is comparing and contrasting. Students will work to understand how to apply this skill to understand the similarities and differences in characters, settings, and story events. We are using a combination of fiction and nonfiction materials to aid our explorations. Also, we will be using graphic organizers like Venn Diagrams to help us document the similarities and differences we can find in the stories we read. We will have the opportunity to show what we know on Friday!

Writing

This week some of our writing will be incorporated into Social Studies. Students will write an opinion piece regarding who was at fault for the tragedy.

Students should be practicing their keyboarding skills at home. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website.

Math

We will continue to work with fractions this week. We will discuss using an area model for finding equivalent fractions. We will also find equivalent fractions by either multiplying or dividing the numerator and denominator by the same number. Students will then work on adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators. We will use area models and number lines to visually represent the operations. There will be a mid-module assessment on Friday which will consist of several multi-step fraction addition and subtraction word problems.

Science

Over the course of this week, students will learn about volume and capacity by creating paper cup lifeboats of varying sizes, filling them with water, and measuring the amount of water it takes to fill each one to capacity. They will then fill each lifeboat with passengers (represented by pennies) to see how many can be on the lifeboat before it sinks in a bin of water. This week we will continue to discuss with students the requirements of the Science Fair, which will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. We will work with students on planning sheets, but experiments must be conducted at home. The science section of the wiki will be updated with information throughout the process.

<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>

Social Studies

This week, we will continue to focus on the events that led up to the American Revolution. We will begin by learning about everyone's favorite subject, TAXES! As we learned last week the British won the French and Indian War. However, it was costly. We will learn about the different ways the British tried to tax the colonists, as well as how the colonists responded. We will then zoom in on one important tragedy of the Revolution, the Boston Massacre. By viewing and reading primary documents students will form an opinion on who was responsible for the event.

Spelling/Word Study

We will be having Spelling Words this week. We will continue to use the Spelling Menu as homework. Students must choose three activities a week. The activities are due Friday. Please remember that students may need to study extra in addition to the assigned spelling activities.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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